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By Abnaki



SO IT'S BEEN ABOUT
ONE AND A HALF
HOURS (RENN TIME)
SINCE WE STARTED.

AND HE'S
LOOKING
HEALTHY
ALREADY.

TICK

TICK



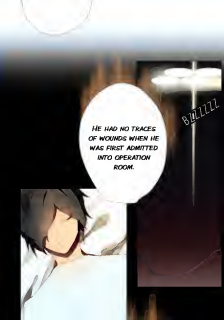
NOT SAYING THAT
I'M NOT HAPPY
ABOUT IT, BUT IT
DOES SURPRISE
ME.



LEON'S
RECUPERATION
TIME USUALLY
AVERAGES ABOUT
8 TO 9 HOURS
FROM PREVIOUS
REMH TIME.

THIS SUDDEN
SPEED IN
RECOVERY IS
ASTONISHING.
REALLY.

NOT TO
MENTION.



HE HAD NO TRACES
OF WOUNDS WHEN HE
WAS FIRST ADMITTED
INTO OPERATION
ROOM.

821111



ACCORDING TO
PARIS'S REPORTS
POST DEFAECOR

LEON SUPPOSEDLY
SUFFERED SEVERE
BRUISING TO THE
FACE.



A close-up of a character's face, showing a dark, possibly bruised or bloody, mark on the forehead. The character has dark hair and is looking downwards. The background is dark and textured.

—AND TO HIS
HEALING BURNS FROM
THE RUNES, AND
LACERATIONS FROM
YOUR GUNSHOT.

A scene showing two characters in a close embrace. On the left, a character with long, flowing purple hair is visible. On the right, a character with dark hair and a dark top is visible. They appear to be in a moment of emotional connection or healing. The background is dark and textured.

HE TOLD ME THAT
DURING THE BATTLE,
THEY HEALED AT AN
EXPEDITED RATE,
PROPOSING A LINK TO
HER ENERGY DRAIN.



IT'S SOMETHING
DIFFICULT FOR ME TO
IMAGINE, GIVEN THE
UNSCATHED STATE
LEON ARRIVED TO
ME IN.

BUT I WOULDN'T
DOUBT PARIS'S
WORD IF LEON'S
POWER WAS TO
"LIFE STEAL" SINCE
HE LOOKS FINE.

AH.



FOCUS—

YOU'RE
STILL HERE?

STAMP



KYAAAAA!!

HM.



WH-
WH--
WH--

!!



OH!
YOU'RE FINALLY
UP FOR REAL

THIS TIME!



HAP

YOU WERE DAZING
BACK AND FORTH
BETWEEN
CONSCIOUSNESS.

BEEP!

IT WAS HARD TO TELL
IF YOU WERE FULLY
AWAKE OR NOT.



L

***RIG!
HARVEY!***

HELLO



A-AH!
UM
H-HI!



WHAT--!



*TO BE HONEST, I
DON'T KNOW FOR
SURE, BUT THE
BEST I CAN*



**WHAT
HAPPENED?**

EXPLAIN TO YOU IS...

WAIT, SO,
IS EVERYTHING
OVER?

--THAT YOU GOT
YOUR... FORTITUDE!









///

PEEK--



BA-DUMP





BA-DUMP

CHOKE--



BA-DUMP

WAIT...

BA-DUMP

YOU DON'T
MEAN...

BA-DUMP

HER?_

BA-DUMP



GEH!!!



**B-BUT
WHY IS
SHE
NAKED?**

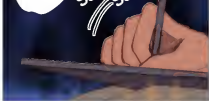
**I-I MEAN-
I DON'T
UNDERSTAND!!**

UND

WHY IS SHE
IN MY BED
ANYWAY?

WELL
ABOUT THAT.

SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE



AS MUCH AS I
WANTED TO
SEPARATE YOU TWO
FOR THE SAKE OF
DECENCY..

..OR CLOTHE HER
PROPERLY..

WE CAN'T TOUCH
HER.



HER ENERGY
DRAIN GOES OFF
IMMEDIATELY
UPON TOUCH.

A FEW OF MY
JUNIORS ARE
CURRENTLY
RECOVERING
FROM TRYING TO
GET HER INTO THE



INFIRMARY.



YOU WERE
UNCONSCIOUS THE
WHOLE TIME. WE
WEREN'T SURE IF IT
WAS BECAUSE YOU
COULDN'T CONTROL
YOUR NEW "POWER" -



OR IF SHE WAS
THE ONE DOING IT
ON PURPOSE BY
HER OWN VOLITION.



**EITHER WAY,
SHE MADE IT 100%
CLEAR FOR US TO
KEEP OUR HANDS
OFF, AND THAT SHE
WANTED TO STAY BY
YOUR SIDE THE
ENTIRE TIME.**



**WE HAD NO CHOICE
BUT TO OBLIGE.**



...



AFTER ALL YOU DON'T
SEEM TO BE IN ANY
IMMINENT DANGER.
YOU APPEAR TO BE
THE ONLY ONE
IMMUNE TO HER
TOUCH.